

Genesis 6:14-17

¹⁴ "Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵ "And this is how you shall make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶ "You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷ "And behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish.

It is here, that Noah for the first time is commanded by God to take on a project which will last for one hundred and twenty years. Many of us struggle when the Lord calls us to something that may last a few months to several years; but Noah was steadfast to what the Lord called him to, from beginning to end. In our society today, many leaders make their decisions based upon people poles; but Noah had no such way of escape. I am more than confident that he and his entire family endured countless opposition and ridicule throughout it all. You must understand that neither Noah nor any other human living at that time had ever seen rain. Also, no one had ever even seen or envisioned a boat of this size and magnitude. Lastly, how do you move a boat that is 450' long, 75' wide, and 45' high from land to the open water? It is more than obvious that Noah was seen as out of his mind. These people living around Noah had no concern with the things of God. In fact, they had become so godless that outside of Noah's lineage, the only thing that they served was themselves. This sounds a lot like today. So what was it that would cause a man like Noah to not falter under such a laborious task? **Hebrews 11:7** tells us exactly, **By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.** This great patriarch did not choose to obey God because of anything that he had ever seen or experienced in his natural life; rather Noah obeyed out of his faith in the Living God, and his knowledge that his entire family's welfare was based upon his obedience. Is it any different today for each of us? Our Heavenly Father has commanded everyone of us to obey Him. If we do, then we are promised life and blessings; and if we don't, then we are promised death and the curse. Many skeptics have claimed that it would have been impossible for Noah to obey God by bringing a pair of every species or kind. This would have been approximately 70,000 individual animals. So could the ark have held or sustained that many animals for the time required? Yes, in fact only fifty percent of the ark would have been needed to contain the animals; leaving the other half to carry food and water for everyone, and housing for Noah and his family. Remember it was God who designed this boat in the first place.

For some of us we can relate to this story of Noah, because the Lord has called us to do something that makes no sense at all. People around us may be mocking and laughing at our expense, even when it's only behind our backs. Yet, if in our heart we know that truly it was the Lord who called us to this very challenging task, then we must keep our focus on Him, and not the other voices. People poles will never lead you in the direction that God has called you; His path is much smaller than that.